

very extensive. But, judging from a comparison of specimens, the Javan, the Cingalese, and the race inhabiting north-western India are severally distinct. And whether we regard them merely as varieties, or refuse to rank them as separate species, it would be inaccurate to assert that a form identical with *P. cinereus*, from Java, also inhabits Tibet.

With these remarks I will now close this somewhat hasty sketch of the results of Dr. Stoliczka's researches, with a hope that it will not be long before he will find himself able to publish further observations on the ornithology of the Himalaya mountains, and the regions they separate from north-western India.

XX.—Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH.

OUR anticipations with regard to Mr. Sharpe's work*, the first part of which we noticed some six months ago (*Ibis*, 1868, pp. 472, 473), have been more than realized by the two parts which have since appeared. The author is unsparing of his labour; and the draughtsman, of whose skill our present number will enable the reader to judge, is very successful in his vocation. Each part contains six plates, representing as many species of the group, with accompanying letterpress, wherein is embodied all that seems to be known respecting the birds. One of the species which requires especial notice is *Cittura sanghirensis*, first described by the author in the Zoological Proceedings for 1868 (p. 271), and no doubt sufficiently distinct from *C. cyanotis*, a very rare bird in collections, and apparently limited in its range to the northern part of the island of Celebes, while the allied form seems to be confined to the much smaller and more distant island of Sanghir, whence its name. We must congratulate Mr. Sharpe on having at last been able to settle the doubt which has long existed as to what the *Alcedo tridactyla* of Pallas really was—a happy result, obtained, however, only at the expense

* A Monograph of the *Alcedinidæ* or Kingfishers, by R. B. SHARPE. The plates drawn and lithographed by Mr. J. G. KEULEMANS. Part ii, October 1st, 1868; Part iii, January 1st, 1869. London: roy. 8vo.

of a "cancel." Though both *Ceyx tridactyla* and *C. rufidorsa* seem to have been well known to the older authors, they were wont to regard the latter either as the female or as a variety of the former. *Ceryle cabanisi* is recognized by Mr. Sharpe as distinct from *C. americana*; and, according to him, the former, which ranges from Texas southward to Ecuador and Peru, has been spoken of under the name of the latter several times in this Journal*.

A long-expected work at last rejoices our eyes, and there are but few of our readers who will not, in Mr. Wallace's company, be glad

— "to wander far away,

On from island unto island at the gateways of the day."

We are sure that 'The Malay Archipelago'† will obtain such close attention at the hands of all ornithologists that we think there is no good reason why we should give any details of its contents. Even those who agree least with the co-discoverer of the theory of "Natural Selection" will admit, after reading his volumes, the unquestionable right of Mr. Wallace to be regarded as a naturalist-traveller of the very first class, and give him credit also for the desire of being accounted a naturalist-philosopher. The Darwinian school (to which belongs, we believe, the majority of our readers), will of course readily accord him a still higher position; and indeed it will be, in our opinion, difficult to refuse the author of this work any rank among naturalists to which he may lay claim. He set out from England with no theory—his theory was forced upon him as the only mode of explaining countless facts which he himself observed; and these facts are now related by him in the simplest and most unaffected manner. There is not a chapter in either of these volumes which will not give rise to numerous reflections of the most interesting character; and we heartily congratulate Mr. Wallace on the accomplishment of his task, and earnestly hope he may

* Ibis, 1859, p. 131; 1860, p. 117; 1865, p. 472, and 1866, p. 263.

† The Malay Archipelago: the land of the Orang-utan and the Bird of Paradise. A Narrative of Travel with Studies of Man and Nature. By ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE. London: 1869. 2 vols. small 8vo.

long live to enjoy his well-earned fame. We wish we could say a good word for the illustrations of his work; they serve to show, as we have for some time suspected, that wood-cutting is rapidly becoming one of the lost arts.

Since some space was devoted in our last year's volume (*Ibis*, 1868, pp. 85-96) to an abstract of Professor Huxley's proposed Classification of Birds, it seems expedient to say a few words on another paper of his contained in the Zoological 'Proceedings' (*P. Z. S.* 1868, pp. 294-319), wherein are contained the results of further researches made by him on the same subject. Of these results we can, however, only speak as briefly as possible. Our readers will recollect that in a letter which Professor Huxley did us the honour of addressing to this Journal (*Ibis*, 1868, pp. 357-362), he made use of three new names of Groups—*Turnicimorphæ*, *Pterocloromorphæ* and *Heteromorphæ*—but without defining their limits or giving his reason for establishing their independence. Both these very necessary steps are taken in the paper we are now noticing; and without going into the matter with respect to the first two further than to say that they include respectively the *Turnicidæ* and *Pteroclidæ*, we have to mention that the third, *Heteromorphæ*, is erected for the special benefit of that very remarkable and hitherto puzzling bird *Opisthocomus cristatus*, a course which appears to us in every way justifiable. The principal features of the osteology of this form are most carefully described, and illustrated by numerous and characteristic woodcuts. With regard to its sternal apparatus *Opisthocomus* stands, so far as is known, quite by itself; the *carina* is scarcely developed anteriorly; and the *furcula* is ankylosed with the *manubrium*. Many more important differences are observable in other parts of the bird's structure; and we cannot but heartily congratulate ornithologists on the light thus thrown upon its place in nature, and the learned author of this paper on his luminous exposition of the subject. The remainder of the paper is also in the highest degree interesting: though, professedly considering only the geographical distribution of the *Alectoremorphæ*, Professor Huxley in a few pages adduces and collates

facts of the highest value in relation to the whole question of zoogeography. In a general way he agrees with the conclusions of Mr. Slater, who, as is now well known, divided the earth's surface into six great zoological regions, though Professor Huxley thinks "it would be convenient to recognize a circumpolar province as distinct from the Nearctic and Palearctic regions;" but on one point our two friends are diametrically opposed. Mr. Slater's primary division was that of a New World and an Old; Professor Huxley sees that the great frontier is latitudinal, not longitudinal, and declares for a North World and a South—ARCTOGÆA and NOTOGÆA—illustrating the distribution of the two subgroups (*Alectoropodes* and *Peristeropodes*), into which he divides the Alectoromorphs by many like examples from other classes of vertebrates. There can be no doubt, we think, of the close resemblance in many respects between the faunas of the Australian and Neotropical Regions; and in his estimate of this resemblance Professor Huxley seems to be right. We must not omit to notice that in defining the boundary between the Indian and Australian Regions, which he most happily suggests may be called after its discoverer "Wallace's line"*, Professor Huxley draws it so as to include both the Nicobar and Philippine Islands—a proposal concerning the propriety of which we should like to hear more.

2. FRENCH.

The grand work of Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards† continues to make good progress; and since we last noticed it a twelvemonth ago (*Ibis*, 1868, pp. 220-222), a dozen more *livraisons* have reached us. Without fear of contradiction we may aver that this important and deeply-interesting work stands alone in the world. It is not merely the geologist or even the palæontologist who will find abundance of new facts herein recorded; the comparative anatomist, and hence the systematist, must necessarily make himself acquainted with the author's

* Cf. *Ibis*, 1859, pp. 440-454.

† Recherches anatomiques et paléontologiques pour servir à l'histoire des Oiseaux Fossiles de la France. Par ALPHONSE MILNE-EDWARDS. Livraisons 14-25. Paris: 1868-9. 4to.

labours. The osteological characters of the different families passed in review continue to be most ably treated by M. Milne-Edwards, in the method we before indicated; and, so far as the work has proceeded, there is no family mentioned which is not represented at the present day. The author displays a most catholic spirit, and, instead of confining himself (as the title-page would lead one to suppose) merely to the "Oiseaux Fossiles de la France," wisely extends his borders to treat of fossil forms from whatsoever part of the world they may come. The systematic ornithologist will do well to study attentively the facts adduced and the opinions laid down by M. Milne-Edwards respecting the characteristics and affinities of many great groups of birds—the "Longipennes" (*Procellariidæ* and *Laridæ*), "Totanides" (*Scolopacidæ* and *Charadriidæ*), "Ciconides" (*Ciconia*, *Platalea*, *Ibis*, and their allies), "Gruides" (*Gruidæ*), and "Phœnicoptérides" (*Phœnicopteridæ*), which last, he, like Prof. Huxley, removes from a place near the *Anatidæ*. The close alliance of the *Laridæ* and the large assemblage of forms so commonly regarded as divisible into two families—*Scolopacidæ* and *Charadriidæ*,—so often placed at a distance from each other, can, we think, no longer be doubted; and we hail with pleasure the concurrence of so high an authority in this view, which we have long believed to be correct (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 92). The extinct species of which remains are figured in these *livraisons* are twenty-eight in number*, as follows:—

"Totanides."		"Gruides."	
Totanus lartetianus.	} Miocene.	Grus excelsa.	} Miocene.
Tringa gracilis.		— problematica.	
Numenius antiquus.		— primigenia.	
Elorius paludicola.			
"Ciconides."		"Phœnicoptérides."	
Ibis pagana.	} Tertiary.	Phœnicopterus croizeti,	} Tertiary.
Ibidopodia palustris.		Gervais.	
Pelargopsis magnus.		Palcelodus ambiguus.	
		— goliath.	

* In our former notice of this work we omitted to mention *Dolichopterus viator*, which, with *Hydrornis natato* is referred to the Group "Longipennes."

Palælodus crassipes.	} Tertiary.	"Rallides."	
— gracilipes.			
— minutus.			
Agnopterus laurillardi.	Eocene.	Fulica newtoni.	(Cf. Ibis, 1869, p. 482, note.)
Elornis littoralis,	} Tertiary.	Gypsornis cuvieri.	Eocene.
Aymard.		Rallus eximius.	} Miocene.
		— major.	
		— intermedius.	Eocene.
		— chrystii.	} Miocene.
		— beaumonti.	
		— porzanoides.	
		— dispar.	
Ardea perplexa.	Tertiary.		

Elornis (allied to *Limosa*), *Ibidopodia*, *Pelargopsis*, *Palælodus*, *Agnopterus*, and *Gypsornis* appear to be new genera; and of them the second seems to be perhaps the most singular form. It only remains for us to say that with the twenty-second *livraison* the first volume of this remarkable work is concluded, and to wish M. Milne-Edwards all possible success with the remainder.

It has been our hard fate on more than one occasion to find ourselves compelled to express but a moderate amount of satisfaction at the ornithological papers in the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie.' The volume for last year contains only four that may be regarded as original. To the first of these, by M. Grandidier (pp. 3-7), allusion has already been made (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 223) in noticing the series of papers of which it formed the conclusion. The second is a brief statement by the same gentleman (p. 48) identifying *Artamia bernieri* with *A. leucocephala*. The third is a continuation (pp. 50-53) of M. Marchand's Catalogue of the Birds of the Eure-et-Loir; while the fourth consists of some "Observations ornithologiques" by Colonel Tytler (pp. 193-199). These were contained in a letter bearing date 7th May 1863 (!) addressed to M. Jules Verreaux, and relate to the Andaman Islands. Had they appeared at the time we should have nothing to say against them. As it is, they are now about as useful as an almanack of the same year; for ornithological observations, unlike wine, do not generally improve by keeping five years; and we think it hardly fair upon Col. Tytler thus to resuscitate extracts from a letter of that age, even if originally intended for publication. Still less fair to Mr. Beavan is the omission of all mention of his paper on "The

Avifauna of the Andaman Islands," which appeared in our Journal for 1867 (pp. 314-334), particularly when that article contained a large number of Col. Tytler's notes, furnished by him to its author, and bringing our knowledge of the subject up to a much later period. A comparison of the two papers will show that Col. Tytler finally did not admit *Cuculus striatus* or *C. varius* as Andamanese species, and the same with *Dicaeum cruentatum* and *D. minimum*. The *Corvus culminatus* of his letter is the *C. andamanensis* of Mr. Beavan, as this gentleman informs us; the *Collocalia brevirostris* and *C. fuciphaga*, are the *C. nidifica* and *C. affinis* respectively; the *Arachnothera flavigastera* is *A. pusilla*, and the *Nectarinia goalpariensis* probably *N. pectoralis*.

The papers contained in our respected contemporary which are not original, are more numerous. They contain the conclusion of Professor Sundevall's remarks on Levaillant, before mentioned by us (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 103), translated by M. Olph-Galliard*, and a very curious note (pp. 95, 96) communicated by the same gentleman, relating to the occurrence in Sweden of *Phalaris psittacula*, an example of which was taken alive near Jönköping in that country about the middle of December 1860! We are indebted to our kind friend Professor Sundevall for some further particulars of this extraordinary fact. The bird had crept through a fence set along the edge of the water by the side of Lake Vettern, into the courtyard of a weaving-manufactory, where it was caught by two men and soon after died. The next day it was taken to Jägmästare Sandblad, of Tenhult, who has a good collection of birds. There it still is, its species, however, having been determined by Professor Fredrik Wahlgren, of the University of Lund, who sent a notice of the circumstance, with a description and figure of the specimen, to the Swedish 'Jägare-förbundets nya Tidskrift' for 1867 (p. 108). The figure, Professor Sundevall adds, is tolerably good. The remaining ornithological papers in the 'Revue' are by M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards and M. Grandidier, and reprinted from

* For separately printed copies (in which many of the errors of the press to be found in the original reprint are corrected) of this useful work we are greatly indebted to the author, and also to the translator.

other sources. The gentleman last named has been so fortunate as to discover in Madagascar a perfect tibia, a femur, and several vertebræ, besides fragmentary remains, of *Æpyornis maxima*, which it is to be hoped will settle the vexed question of the true position of that remarkable and gigantic form: the tibia is 64 *centimètres* in length! Finally, we have to mention that the series of figures of nestling-birds is being still continued by M. Marchand.

3. ITALIAN.

The fourth volume of the 'Atti' of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin contains a paper by Dr. Salvadori on a small collection of birds brought from Costa Rica by Sig. Luigi Durando*. Twenty-three species are enumerated; and though none of them are new, some have been only recently described by Dr. Cabanis, Messrs. Lawrence, Salvin, and others, and the additional information given with respect to them is often of value. *Pheucticus tibialis*, Baird (*cf.* Ibis, 1868, p. 115), a handsome species, is figured for the first time. A new genus, *Urospatha* (p. 179), is proposed for the reception of *Prionites* or *Momotus martii* (Spix). It differs from *Momotus* proper (in which *Crybelus*, Cabanis, may be included) in having ten instead of twelve rectrices; but in this respect it agrees with the other genera of *Momotidæ*, namely, *Eumomota*, *Prionorhynchus*, *Hylomanes*, and *Baryphtheugus*. To the last-named, indeed, *Urospatha* is very closely allied, and almost the only character by which it may be distinguished is that afforded by the spatulate ends of the middle rectrices. All the species in the list are included in Mr. Lawrence's recent Catalogue of the Birds of Costa Rica, of which we hope soon to furnish a more extended notice. In conclusion, we may remark that we think the species included as *Picolaptes lineaticeps*, Lafr., should rather be called *P. compressus* (Cab.). It is true that the Central-American and Mexican bird has usually been referred to Lafresnaye's name and description (R. Z. 1850, p. 277); but we think Dr. Cabanis

* Intorno ad alcuni Uccelli di Costa Rica note di TOMMASO SALVADORI. Atti della R. Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, vol. iv. pp. 170-185, *cum tab.*

(J. f. O. 1861, p. 243) right in regarding the Venezuelan form as the true *lineaticeps*.

Besides the paper just noticed, Dr. Salvadori's kindness has supplied us with two others which he has contributed to the Eleventh volume of the 'Atti' of the Italian Society of Natural Sciences. The first of these is the Italian version of the article on new *Procellariidæ* which appeared in our last number (*vide suprà*, pp. 61-68) ; and the second is a description of two new species of *Caprimulgidæ*, on which the names *Stenopsis macro-rhyncha* and *Scotornis nigricans* are conferred.

4. DUTCH.

Dr. Finsch having now completed his Monograph on the Parrots *, which we briefly mentioned on a former occasion (Ibis, 1868, p. 112) it becomes our duty to give our readers a more extended notice of it ; and the duty is a very pleasing one, on account of the extraordinary pains and thorough conscientiousness which the author has devoted to his subject. The whole work is divided into two parts, of which the first contains the General, and the second the Special natural history of the group. After a concise introduction, Dr. Finsch gives an historical and literary survey of his subject, wherein he treats of the Parrots of the ancients and of the middle ages ; and then follows an abstract of the literature relating to the group, from Aldrovandi to the present time, with a few other matters. To this succeeds a very full account of their "outdoor-life," in which every aspect of their habits seems to be considered ; and then a very well executed sketch of their distribution, which, being illustrated by a map, or, to speak more correctly, by five maps on one plate, forms certainly one of the most valuable portions of the whole work. After a chapter on the well-known disposition for wit which most Parrots display, their form and external structure are generally described, as well as their feathering and anatomy,—

* Die Papageien, monographisch bearbeitet von Dr. OTTO FINSCH. Zweiter Band. Leiden : 1868 (London, Williams and Norgate). 8vo, pp. 996, pls. 2-6.

a disquisition on their systematic arrangement, followed by a list of genera and species, concluding this part of the work.

Then begins the special part, wherein each species is considered separately and in very great detail; and this part occupies about five-sixths of the whole work. From what we have already said it will be gathered that no person ought in future to write anything on the *Psittaci* without consulting Dr. Finsch's Monograph. We shall content ourselves now by giving a short abstract of his systematic arrangement. He regards the group as forming a single family, *Psittacidae*, of the *Zygodactyl* order, and divides it into five subfamilies as follows:—*Stringopinae*, *Ptilotophinae*, *Sittacinae**, *Psittacinae*, and *Trichoglossinae*, which may be rendered more familiar to English ears by the names—though some are barbarous enough—Kakapos, Cockatoos, Maccaws (including many of the species commonly known as Parrakeets), Parrots proper, and Brush-tongue Lories. We will not presume to criticise this arrangement. Like most other things of the same nature, it has its bad as well as its good points; probably, however, the latter predominate. The separation of the genus *Strigops* (or *Stringops*, as Dr. Finsch would have us write it) from the other Parrots seems to be very proper. It will perhaps be remembered (*cf.* Ibis, 1868, p. 87) that in this form the mode of ossification of the sternum may possibly differ, as Prof. Huxley (P. Z. S. 1867, p. 424) tells us, from the mode in every other Carinate bird; but at any rate, the Kakapo's want of a keel is an undoubted fact, and must signify a good deal. The Cockatoos, too, and, one would think, the Maccaws, form each a very natural group; but we do not profess to give an opinion on Dr. Finsch's placing among the latter, rather than among the true Parrots, such generic forms as *Conurus* and *Palæornis*, to say nothing of *Brotogerys* and *Platyercus*. The advancement of the

* It is unfortunate, we think, that our author is compelled by the very strict rules of nomenclature to which he binds himself to make use of the name *Sittace*, and particularly *Sittacinae*, when *Psittacus* and *Psittacinae* also occur. Still, on his principles, there is clearly no help for it, though whether those principles are justifiable is another matter. *Sittace*, as Dr. Finsch rightly quotes (i. p. 34, note) from Pliny, is a word of barbarous origin, just as *Ara* is, the chief difference between them being that one was latinized some fifteen hundred years before the other.

Brush-tongue Lories to an equal rank with the groups already named has been very strongly insisted upon by Mr. Wallace; and as Dr. Finsch agrees therein, we suppose that the position will be now freely conceded to them.

Our author divides the Parrots, of which he recognizes 351 good species, besides 41 doubtful ones, into 26 genera. From this it will be seen that he is by no means a great maker either of species or genera; indeed of the former we think he scarcely acknowledges all that deserve recognition. Only one species, *Bolborhynchus luchsii* (ii. p. 121), is described as new, the generic name of which, if it is to be used at all (being of later date than *Myiopsitta*), should be spelt as we have done, and not *Bolborhynchus*. Finally, let us say that a capital index concludes this most laborious and valuable work, for which Dr. Finsch deserves the best thanks of ornithologists in general, and of psittacophilites in particular; we only wish we had any praise to bestow on the plates representing *Brotogerys subcærulea*, *B. chrysosema*, *Chrysotis guatemalæ*, *Coryllis** *exilis*, and *Domicella fuscata*—the less we say of them the better.

5. NORWEGIAN.

A good list of the birds of Norway has long been a great desideratum; our friend Herr Robert Collett has done much towards supplying the want by publishing a catalogue of them with notes †, chiefly treating, as the title of the paper indicates, of the geographical distribution of the birds in the country, and prefacing it with an excellent list of authorities. As regards the middle and south of the kingdom, the parts which have come personally under the inspection of the author or his immediate friends, the information seems to be all that can be desired; but as regards the north we think more is needed. Assertions, for instance, have been made over and over again that certain of the wading-birds, whose summer retreat is the puzzle of

* *Coryllis* is a name which the author in following his very strict rules of nomenclature is obliged to bestow on the genus usually known as *Loriculus*.

† Norges Fugle, og deres geografiske Udbredelse i Landet, af ROBERT COLLETT. Særskilt aftrykt af Vidensk.-Selsk. Forhandlinger for 1868.

oologists (such as *Squatarola helvetica*, *Calidris arenaria*, *Tringa canutus*, and *T. minuta*), breed on the mountains of Nordland and Finmark. Far be it from us to contradict these assertions; but we must say we think they require more particular proof than we have ever been able to find. Many of them have been repeated so often that, until one comes to inquire into the evidence on which they rest, one is induced to believe that they are as true as they are desired to be thought. We are sorry to see what is certainly a mistake made by Herr Collett. He says that *Totanus ochropus* breeds near Bodö, and quotes the Messrs. Godman (*Ibis*, 1861, p. 87) as his authority for the statement, whereas they expressly declare that, though they searched every likely-looking locality, they did not succeed in finding the Green Sandpiper breeding there. Much, however, that is of value is contained in this paper. The fact that *Carpodacus erythrinus* has now been found breeding at Polmak on the Tana is particularly interesting when taken in connexion with the recent increase of its range in Finland, as observed by the HH. Nordmann (*cf. Ibis*, 1861, p. 111). So also is the account of the inroad made by the Grey Partridge (*Perdix cinerea*) into Norway in the last century, of which we were not before aware, and its subsequent disappearance to renew the attempt at settlement in 1811, which it has so far successfully accomplished that, creeping on year after year, it has now reached lat. 64°, or north of Trondhjem. Such a fluctuation, without any assignable cause, in the range of a species is worthy the attention of the students of bird-distribution. *Anser brachyrhynchus* has at last been recognized as breeding in the north of Norway, as it was some time ago suggested in this journal that it would be (*Ibis*, 1865, p. 514, note). Further proof of *Anser segetum* and *A. albifrons* breeding in the same district is yet, we think, required, since the latter has possibly been mistaken for *A. erythropus* (*cf. P. Z. S.* 1860, pp. 339-341, and *Ibis*, 1860, pp. 404-406). In conclusion, we have to remark that Herr Collett appears to give a wrong derivation for the name "*leucorodia*," since Aldrovandi, who seems to have first used the word, assigns as a translation of it "*Albardeola*," which precludes the "rose-coloured" view taken by our friend, whom we beg to excuse such of our criticisms as are unfavourable, while

sincerely thanking him for a most useful contribution to the ornithology of his native country.

6. RUSSIAN.

In a paper communicated to the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg on the 11th (23rd) of April, 1867, but only recently published *, Professor Brandt returns once more to the much-disputed question of the affinities of the Dodo. His previous investigations of this subject were made some twenty years previously †; and an abstract of them was published in a "Post-script" to Strickland and Melville's work ('The Dodo,' &c. pp. 120-122), showing the author's opinion to be that "the Dodo was better placed as a Cursorial bird in the vicinity of the Plovers." It is unfortunate, we think, that Prof. Brandt's later remarks were made prior to the publication of Prof. Owen's elaborate description of the osteology of this interesting form in the 'Transactions' of the Zoological Society, and are chiefly based on the labours of MM. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, Gervais, and Coquerel (*cf.* Zool. Record, iii. pp. 105, 106), and the paper of Mr. George Clark published in this journal (*Ibis*, 1866, pp. 141-146). Prof. Brandt summarily disposes of the hypothesis of MM. Gervais and Coquerel, who follow De Blainville, and would ally the Dodo to the Vultures, but criticises at some length the Pigeon-theory, which, we believe, is the one now generally adopted. He lays great stress on the fact that the Dodo-bones found by Mr. Clark in the Mare aux Songes were in company with those of many water-birds, and thence argues in favour of the first having aquatic habits. After passing in review the various points presented by the authors we have named and some others, Prof. Brandt states that the questions which have to be answered are (1) whether the Dodo should stand as an anomalous form beside the Pigeons, (2) whether it would be more conveniently enrolled among the Waders, or (3) whether in consequence of its mixed characters it should be regarded as the type of a peculiar order. Each of these questions, he considers,

* *Mélanges Biologiques tirés du Bulletin de l'Académie Impériale des Sciences de St. Pétersbourg*, tom. vi. pp. 233-253.

† *Bull. Phys. Math. Acad. St. Pétersb.* vii. p. 111 *et seq.*

has more or less claim to be answered in the affirmative, but he finally declares himself in favour of a scheme which would divide the *Grallatores* into six families :— (I.) *Alectoridæ*, including *Palamedea*, *Psophia*, *Dicholophus*, and *Otis* ; (II.) *Dididæ* ; (III.) *Charadriidæ* ; (IV.) *Scolopacidæ* ; (V.) *Herodii*, comprising *Ibis*, *Platalea*, *Tantalus*, *Ciconia*, *Anastomus*, *Dromas*, *Scopus*, *Baleniceps*, *Cancroma*, *Ardea*, and *Grus* ; and, lastly, (VI.) *Rallidæ*, with *Rallus*, *Gallinula*, *Porphyrio*, *Parra*, *Fulica*, and *Podoa*. A diagram follows, which shows that the *Alectoridæ* and *Rallidæ* are each allied to the orders *Gallinacæ* and *Natatores* respectively, and *Charadriidæ* to the order *Columbinæ*, each of these groups last mentioned having a relation to *Dididæ*, which, again, has affinities to the order *Cursores* or *Struthionidæ*. Individually we do not agree with the decision at which the author arrives ; but the paper (as might be expected from Prof. Brandt's great reputation) is a very able one, and brings out forcibly several characteristics of our old friend *Didus ineptus* which certainly should not be overlooked, while the whole subject is treated with much judicial fairness.

7. AMERICAN.

Quickly following on Dr. Coues's South-Carolina 'Synopsis,' which we noticed in our last number (*vide suprâ*, pp. 118-120) comes an equally good "List of the Birds of New England" from the same unwearied pen*. Mr. Samuels, as our readers will recollect (*Ibis*, 1868, p. 346), has recently been over the same ground ; but Dr. Coues remarks that the present list is "perhaps more needed since than before the appearance of Mr. Samuels's work ;" and the remark seems to be true from various inaccuracies therein which are adduced. The Doctor is throughout critical (in the best sense of the term) of the labours of his various predecessors, of whom at least fifteen are enumerated. Of course the majority of his notes are chiefly of local interest only ; but the following passage has a more general application.

"Within the area of New England, as is well known to those

* A List of the Birds of New England, by ELLIOTT COUES. (Reprinted from the Proceedings of the Essex Institute, vol. v. pp. 249-314.) Salem, Mass.: 1868. 8vo, pp. 71.

familiar with the distribution of our species, are represented portions of two Faunæ [the 'Canadian' and the 'Alleghanian'] which differ in many respects from each other. There seems to be a natural dividing line between the birds of Massachusetts and Southern New England generally, and those of the more northern portions of the Eastern States. Numerous species which enter New England in spring, to breed there, do not proceed, as a general rule, farther north than Massachusetts; and many others, properly to be regarded as stragglers from the south in summer and early autumn, are rarely if ever found beyond the latitude of this State. In like manner many of the regular winter visitants of Maine are of rare or only occasional occurrence, or are not found at all much farther south. Again, many species hardly known in Massachusetts and southward, except as migratory species passing through in spring and autumn, are in Maine regular summer visitants, breeding abundantly. Other minor differences, resulting from latitude and physical geography, will readily be brought to mind by attentive consideration of the subject, and therefore need not be here detailed. It will be evident that a due regard for these important points has necessitated, in the case of almost every species in the list, remarks elucidative of the special part it plays in the composition of the Avi-fauna."

Some of our readers may like to know that remains of *Alca impennis* have been lately discovered in three New-England localities, to wit, Mount Desert and Crouch's Cove in the State of Maine, and in "shell-mounds" at Ipswich in Massachusetts, where a *humerus* was found by Professor Baird in August last.

XXI.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

The following letters have been received, addressed "To the Editor of 'The Ibis'":—

Helsingfors, December 29, 1868.

SIR,—Professor Sundevall, in his 'Svenska Foglarna,' records the following birds, among others, as having been found in